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FOREIGN DEPARTMENT



IN CHARGE OF

LAVINIA L. DOCK, R.N.

THE COLOGNE CONGRESS

SISTER AGNES has issued a preliminary programme, showing the events at Cologne as follows, subject to change.

August 4. Reception at 7 P.M. in the Gürzenich, followed by the Pageant in the same hall.

August 5. Regular meeting of the International Council of Nurses; affiliation of new members, with the same ceremonial as that observed in London; regular business and resolutions in the morning session. In the afternoon, Miss Hubrecht's report for the International Education Committee; reports and papers on organization and state registration.

August 6. Nursing Economics and Overwork of Nurses will fill the morning. The afternoon session will be entirely devoted to The Place of the Matron as Principal of the Training School. This subject, which is of great importance on the continent, because of the general unwillingness of men to give women any real authority, will be brought forward in a leading paper with a group of written discussions. The main paper will be read by Miss Mollett, of England, and discussions will come from Sister M. Albeus Fogarty, Ireland, Baroness Mannerheim, Finland, and others.

August 7. This day will be entirely devoted to Social Service and Preventive Nursing in all its branches. The paper for Great Britain is being prepared by Miss Beatrice Kent. That from the United States will open by a description of the Department of Nursing and Health at Teachers' College (which is of all things that of which American nurses may well be proud), written by Miss Nutting, and will conclude with the material collected by Miss Waters (author of Visiting Nursing in the United States), showing the direction and extent of new lines. The Canadian paper is being prepared under the auspices of the National Society and will probably be in large measure the work of Miss Rogers, Superintendent of Public School Nursing in Toronto, who will come to Cologne, bringing with her an excellent exhibit of the work under her direction. The papers from other countries are also being prepared

under the auspices of national societies, or national vice-presidents. Thursday will be devoted to the trip to Kaiserswerth, and Friday will also be spent in visiting notable places.

Nurses who expect to go to Cologne should send in their names as soon as possible to Miss Dock, 265 Henry Street, New York City.

The National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland has unanimously instructed its four delegates to vote for the resolution on the enfranchisement of women, and, of course, for state registration. Of these two points, so closely linked, we must note that six nurses are among the martyrs now suffering imprisonment and hard labor in the cause of setting women free, and that the Nurses' Registration Bill has been again introduced into the House of Commons by Lady Hermione Blackwood's brother-in-law, the Right Hon. R. C. Munro-Ferguson. But the day of justice for women, we fear, is not yet at hand in England.

Miss Childs in coming to Cologne from the Government Hospital in Basutoland, South Africa.

The Militant Movement in England. *The British Journal of Nursing*, of March 16, has such deeply serious comment on the recent agitation that we reprint it in full:

Thousands of women all over the world are aghast, though by no means intimidated, at the extreme severity of the sentences passed by magistrates on the militant women suffragists, and most indignant that the mobs of male window smashers, but a sprinkling of whom have been arrested by the police, have been practically let off, without punishment at all! Many of the papers omitted to mention their names and offences. This is quite one of the ugliest aspects of the present turmoil.

"What is wrong with England?" demanded Mrs. Morgan Dockrell at the London Opera House Meeting. Something is very rotten in the State, indeed, when durance vile, hard labour, and threatened penal servitude is all the use its Government can make of genius. That women like Mrs. Pankhurst, with her supreme organising ability, her daughter Christabel, whose mental acumen is astounding, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, the beloved "Sister Marion," with twelve years' absolute devotion to the needs of the most miserable and starving of East London's poor, to her credit, Dr. Louisa Garrett Anderson, the brilliant daughter of one of England's greatest women, Dr. Ethel Smyth, the finest of women musical composers, and dozens of other women of equal value to the State, should be driven to demonstrate against their de-

graded social status by the breach of laws, they have no power to frame, and for which they retain no respect, sounds a note of warning. We claim that what is wrong needs drastic and speedy remedy if the Empire is to stand. Yes the Empire—make no mistake about that. A nation of men who have no respect for the mothers of whose blood and bone they are—presents a most hideous spectacle to the world at large, and one which civilised peoples will not tolerate.

Who can doubt the truth of this who attended the meeting at the London Opera House on March the 7th? To reach the House we passed alone through a mob of howling and obscene men very little controlled by the police, and on leaving the meeting, we faced from the top of the steps a sea of horrible faces—the old, purple, bloated, blear-eyed—the young, dissolute and passionately distorted. It needed but little imagination to realise the scene from the Paris prisons in those sanguinary September days of 1792, when the innocent prisoners stepped out into gutters of blood—to meet death from the brutalised, drunken mob!

Hundreds of police had been called up to keep these Englishmen—our lordly Law-makers—from assaulting, and tearing the clothes off the backs of decent women! From obscene insult they could not deter them, but to keep them in check at all, the mounted police had to ride them down, pell mell, off the pavement into the gutters, from whence it is to be hoped they sprang.

But did they? the press has asserted that some of the ringleaders were medical students from Guy's and the London Hospitals. We should be sorry to think it possible, but we think the football teams of these two homes of healing owe it to themselves, and to their hospitals, publicly to deny this accusation if it is false, and if they cannot exonerate themselves from this most injurious statement, we consider that Lord Goschen, the Treasurer of Guy's, and the Hon. Sydney Holland, the Chairman of the London Hospital, should institute a searching inquiry into the matter at once.

ITEMS

IN view of the recent action of New York hospital rulers in asking for lower standards in the Nurse Practice Act, and alleging the difficulty of getting enough probationers, it is enlightening to read this item from England, where as yet there is no state registration at all:

The majority of matrons of well-organized training schools complain that there is a great scarcity of probationers of the well-educated type

they require, and now the same complaint is being made by Superintendents of County Nursing Associations in regard to the class employed as village nurses. The remedy is to hand: let them work for the passage of the Nurses' Registration Bill, and we believe that great encouragement would be given to earnest, well-educated girls to enter the nursing ranks. The appreciation shown by trained nurses of the status of certified midwife under the Midwives Act proves that women have the sense to discriminate between a well-organized profession in which they have legal status and the unjust conditions which obtain in the nursing world. "I can't keep a housemaid," said a matron recently. "They all leave to enter the London hospitals and infirmaries as probationers!" (*B. J. N.*, March 16.)

This seems to show that it is not our American registration acts that are to blame for short supplies of probationers. The causes must be sought elsewhere, in our whole economic system and in the general pressure of women to improve their status. And the problem will not be solved by going backward.

SISTER AGNES reports the Women's Exhibition and Congress held in Berlin, in March, a wonderful success and the historical nursing exhibit "a gem." We shall see this at Cologne.

TUBERCULOSIS has been made a compulsorily notifiable disease in England and Wales, by a General Order of the Local Government Board. The question now is: Shall venereal diseases follow? In Australia, the state of Victoria is experimenting with free voluntary treatment for syphilis and gonorrhœa. Queensland has a new Health Act providing for notification without names, and making provision for free treatment, but also including a clause requiring medical inspection of prostitutes in a certain area. This latter clause, however, the Premier declares is to be repealed.

WE are gratified by receiving the last issue of *La Soignante*, bulletin of the alumnae association of the Nursing School of the City of Paris. It contains a charming account of the new school for nurses in Brussels, which is organized on lines very similar to those of the Paris school. Three of the French senior nurses or "Monitrices" went to Brussels to share in the ceremonies of officially opening the new school. Mlle. Gosselin has given the description which appears, with illustrations, in *La Soignante*. We see by the journal that the nurses of Paris trained in the central school are now distributed over twenty-nine of the hospitals under the city administration.